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Popstar's £30k donation saved struggling dance company

Pop superstar George Michael donated £30,000 to Anjali Dance Company, inset; below, founder Nicole Thomson

A DANCE troupe which feared it was never gonna dance again has revealed £30,000 from superstar George Michael helped secure its future.

Anjali Dance Company, based at The Mill Arts Centre in Banbury, has been working with people with learning difficulties for about 20 years but in 2011 faced a bleak future after losing vital Arts Council funding.

But following two substantial donations, company founder Nicole Thomson said the company would forever be in debt to the pop icon who passed away on Christmas Day at his Oxfordshire home.

She said: "It is always a struggle to survive as a company in this current funding climate.

"At the time, one of George Michael's sisters came to see a performance in Oxford and was completely bowled over by what she saw.

"When she heard about our difficulties she suggested that we apply to

Naomi Herring
nherring@nqo.com

George's charitable foundation for help, which we did, and we received two very generous donations which enabled us to carry on."

Ms Thomson, the founder and artistic director, said the donations came over two years and amounted to about £30,000.

She added: "It was really wonderful and a very timely helping hand.

"Any regular grant funding for our core activities is always helpful in stabilising the company and allowing us to continue."

The dance company is spread across six different groups which include dancers of all ages, young and old, and specialises in training people with learning difficulties.

This includes regular training sessions, school workshops and also tours such as the upcoming UK show *Genius* before performances in France and Mexico later this year.

Ms Thomson added: "We are greatly indebted to George Michael for his help and we will always be grateful for his kindness and concern for others.

"I was not surprised to hear of George Michael's other charitable stories as I had heard and knew he was a very generous person.

"He obviously really cared about vulnerable people and was just incredibly generous with his money."

It was revealed earlier this month that George Michael was the secret donor who helped save Oxfordshire beauty spot Thrupp Lake in Radley.

He ploughed £10,000 into a campaign to save the lakes after RWE npower won permission to dump ash in the water.



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Police seek man who 'held pram'

POLICE are looking for a man who complimented a woman's baby and then took hold of her pram.

The incident happened shortly after 6.30pm last Tuesday near the Tesco Express in Middleton Road, Banbury.

The woman pushed away a man, described as Asian and believed to be aged between 25 and 30, who put his hand on the pram which was carrying her child.

He is said to be of slim build and was wearing a red woolly hat and a black coat.

Since the incident additional patrols have been taking place in the area.

Investigating officer Det Insp Steve Raffield, from Banbury Force CID, said: "This incident was concerning for the woman as she believed the man may have been trying to take the baby away. He did not touch the child during the incident."

"We are investigating the circumstances and I am keeping an open mind about what happened. This may have been a misunderstanding or could have been a deliberate attempt to take the baby."

"I would also like to appeal to the man involved to come forward so that we can establish the facts in relation to what happened."

"I recognise incidents of this nature can be concerning to people locally, however additional patrols are taking place in the area and if anyone has any concerns or information they can approach and speak to a police officer."

Anyone with any information about the incident should call the 24-hour Thames Valley Police inquiry centre on 101.

Elderly woman waits 14 hours for a hospital bed

Family of patient who has dementia tell of harrowing time at overflowing Horton

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

AN ELDERLY woman with dementia was left waiting for a cubicle for more than 14 hours at the Horton General Hospital's overflowing A&E last week.

Brenda Mountford, who turns 78 tomorrow, was rushed to the Banbury hospital at 10.30pm last Friday after a fall at home.

Her daughter-in-law Amanda Mountford recounted the harrowing wait she and her family then endured as Oxfordshire's hospitals remain on high alert.

Amanda, 50, who kept a diary of the events, said: "I called the hospital at 1.30am and she was still in an ambulance outside A&E."

"She was freezing cold. The safety bars were crushing her. They had to keep turning the ambulance on for the heating."

Finally Brenda, who the family suspected had suffered a stroke and was unable to walk, was transferred to a temporary bed in a corridor at 1.45am.



Brenda Mountford on a trolley at the Horton General Hospital at 2am

Amanda said: "The corridors were four-a-side. All the cubicles were full, the waiting room was full."

"We went back on Saturday afternoon at about 1pm and they were just putting her in a cubicle in the Emergency Assessment Unit. She is still there now."

Since December 19, all sites run by Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have been on the second-highest alert for operational pressures.

It means hospitals are experiencing serious problems with patient flow and handovers from South Central Ambulance Service are

'significantly compromised'.

Amanda said: "On Friday it was manic. There were three ambulances outside and they all had elderly people in."

"One of the paramedics I was talking to said one pensioner had been waiting in the ambulance since 8pm that night."

"It's just dreadful. We are worried to death. They've got no beds. How are they possibly going to keep up?"


A growing population, busy and closed GP practices, and understaffed hospitals have been cited as main reasons for sustained pressure across the NHS this winter.

But Amanda, who grew up in Horton View opposite the hospital, said: "I have never known it to be like this."

OUH Chief Nurse Catherine Stoddart said: "The emergency departments at both the Horton and John Radcliffe Hospitals have been experiencing major pressures and OUH staff are working incredibly hard to ensure patient flow."


"We would like to remind people across Oxfordshire to stop and consider all the options available to them before deciding to go to an Emergency Department, so that patients with the most urgent needs can be treated more quickly."

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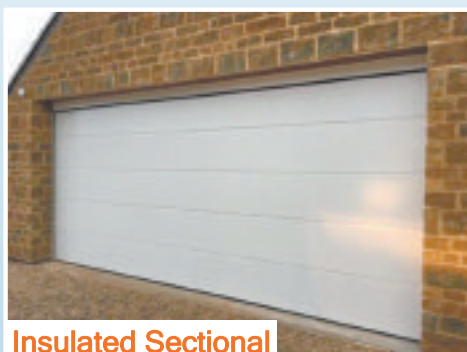


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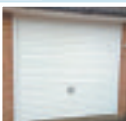

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Zombie invasion marks movie premiere

PEOPLE in a picturesque market town had a bit of a shock on Sunday night when they were invaded by zombies.

Crowds of the undead gathered in the centre of Chipping Norton, thankfully not to eat the residents but for a screening of two homegrown horror films.

Director Tony Jopia introduced the global premiere of his two movies – *Cute Little Buggers* and *Apocalypse* – at Chipping Norton Theatre.

The 50-year-old, from Enstone, said he was stunned by the response the two films received on the day.

He said: "We were absolutely blown away."

"Overall we couldn't have asked for anything more."

"It was magical, inspirational and touching that so many people enjoyed it."

"The support from everyone there was amazing and people are already asking if we can do more this year."

Apocalypse was filmed in Banbury in 2014 and follows the story of a journalist trying to reach her boyfriend after a virus released by terrorists begins turning people into zombies.

Cute Little Buggers, a sci-fi about bunny rabbits taken over by aliens and the locals who fight back against the deceptively adorable invaders, was filmed in Duns Tew.

Both films – produced by Tirana Films and Great Dayne Entertainment and line-produced by Bicester's The Film and TV Company and Brainy Monkey Post – will be released globally later in the year.

Mr Jopia asked people who had appeared as zombies in *Apocalypse* to attend Sunday's premiere – in costume of course.

The director added: "There was one really magical moment where one guy who had appeared as a zombie in *Apocalypse* came and told me that being in a film was on his bucket list. He said he could now die happily knowing he is in a film that will last forever."

Mr Jopia said he is keen to hear from people interested in contributing to future projects.

Get in touch by email at tony@jopiaproductions.com



Zombies invade Chipping Norton for the premiere of films by Enstone director Tony Jopia, centre; left, *Apocalypse* zombies Linda and Seb Hricko from Banbury



Help us save our historic theatre

Protesters against homes and shops plan in call for The Grand to be restored

Naomi Herring
nherring@nqo.com

A CALL for the community to revive a theatre in Banbury dating back more than 100 years has been made by residents objecting to housing plans.

Proposals to turn The Grand Theatre, built in Broad Street in 1911, into flats and shops were submitted to councillors in December and sparked a campaign to save it.

Community group Friends of the Grand Theatre has urged people to respond online before the consultation closes today and help with a restoration plan.

Member Rob Kinchin-Smith said: "The proposal is to hollow

out the building to create 12 flats and two retail units. Essentially only the façade would remain as an acknowledgement to its 100-year history."

"Of course, as well as reducing our historic art deco cinema to a façade, the application also entails the loss of a large and versatile, purpose-built performance space of exactly the type and scale so desperately needed by the local community, local performers and local audiences."

"The huge support for the friends, including support from almost every local performance group, indicates there is a huge appetite for just the sort of community hub and performance space The Grand could be."

The building started as a 500-seat theatre. It nearly doubled in size in 1935 to become a 950-seat Egyptian-themed cinema, before 30 years of being used as a bingo hall, a nightclub and most recently the Wonder Lounge.

But this is the third application to demolish a large part of the historic cinema excluding the façades. The first application in 2014 was approved but not viable and the second application was withdrawn after about 100 objections.

The latest application has been submitted by Mentor Inns LLP.

Mr Kinchin-Smith added: "Our mission is to restore and revive The Grand Theatre into a professionally-run theatre, cinema and performing arts space, providing an inspiring and inclusive programme by, and for, the wider community."

"But also to celebrate our unique heritage in active partnership with the local community, securing a living legacy and saving our past for the future."

Mr Kinchin-Smith said there was a 'growing list' of people stepping forward to help.

Email grandbanbury@gmail.com

Council alert over flytipping

RESIDENTS have been reminded to make proper use of recycling banks after a heap of carrier bags full of rubbish were found dumped in North Oxfordshire.

Cherwell District Council has warned people of the consequences of leaving waste near recycling banks and not in them.

It comes after the council said a resident was fined £75 for flytipping outside the former Admiral Holland pub in Banbury.

Cherwell District Council lead member for clean and green Debbie Pickford said: "It may seem relatively harmless to drop off carrier bags of unsorted waste at recycling banks, but such littering blights an important resource for those who are making the effort to help the environment by recycling."

"Cherwell actively pursues flytippers and will be making full use of the fixed penalty notice powers it adopted last October."

The council can now issue fines up to £250 for a small offence since the new policy came into force.

Report flytipping in Cherwell by contacting 01295 227007.

175th birthday

A SCHOOL near Banbury marked its 175th anniversary yesterday.

Sibford School's first pupil, nine-year-old Lucy Endall, registered on January 16, 1842, arriving from Banbury by carrier cart.

Yesterday nine-year-old pupils cut a birthday cake to mark the occasion before it was shared at lunchtime.

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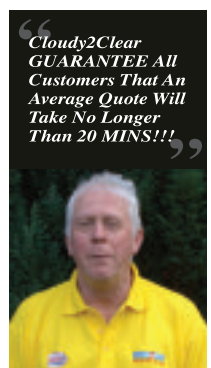
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Hundreds get look behind



Trust holds open day in a bid to attract new recruits to all areas of the service

Georgina Campbell
gcampbell@nqo.com

HUNDREDS of people turned out to get a taste of what it would be like working for the county's ambulance trust.

South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) opened its doors to the public on Saturday in a bid to encourage new recruits.

After 500 residents came to the open day in 2016, 40 people were hired and Matt Green, a paramedic, was one of them.

The 29-year-old said: "A big plus for working with South Central Ambulance Service is that you are working with people who actually care."

"These people come to work every day wanting to do their best for patients."

"Before, I was a paramedic for the London Ambulance Service and you did not get the variety of jobs that you do here, while working in counties that have urban and rural areas."

"I love it here."

Across the trust, 290 people are employed in Oxfordshire as part of the 999 service with another 90 people employed in non-clinical roles.

Amanda Cundy is the community liaison and training officer

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Top, clinical mentor and simbulance educator Lou Gale, left, and education simulation facilitator Karina Diamond monitor and control a 'patient' in the simbulance; above, the ambulance HQ in Bicester; the NHS 111 call centre and senior operations manager for patient transport Simon Boshier

scenes at ambulance HQ

for the 1,000 volunteers across Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Hampshire.

She said: "This really is a fantastic way for people to see how they can get involved on a voluntary level."

"Our community first responders are an integral part of our service because they are sometimes the first on scene at a life-threatening emergency."

"By opening our doors to visitors today we are able to explain at length the training and support we are able to give our volunteers."

Ms Cundy said that after last year's open day about 30 people signed up to be a community first responder.

She added: "Even if someone came along today and did not sign up, by talking to their friends and family about what they have learned and seen, we found last year a lot of people volunteered through word of mouth."

The trust had all their bells and whistles out during the event at its Bicester headquarters, from tours around its NHS 111 call centre to a training 'simulation'.

Although the trust said it was not looking to recruit immediately, the open day was an opportunity for people to find out more about how the trust worked.

Childminder Suzanne Wareham, from Kidlington, said she had come down to see what volunteering opportunities were available.

She said: "I'm thinking about being a community first responder; as I think I would really enjoy it."

"It is helping people out and helping to give back to the community."

"It is a very interesting role so hopefully something will come out of today for me."

The event ran from 10am to 2pm and the trust will be hosting another recruitment day on Saturday, January 28, at its Hampshire base in Otterbourne.

For more information visit scas.nhs.uk



Community liaison and training officer Amanda Cundy shows visitor Rebecca Fortescue-Phillips medical kit used by community first responders



Acting head of NHS 111 North Ruth Page; right, paramedic Matt Green



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From left, Lewis Taylor, Mathew Hill and Oliver Coulling-Green

Teens launch medieval fantasy game

THOUSANDS of people played an online game in just two days after three Bicester and Banbury College students launched their creation.

Sixth form game developers Lewis Taylor, 18, Mathew Hill, 17, and Oliver Coulling-Green, 18, created *Realm of Rulers* – an online adventure game – during their school holidays.

They were surprised to see it went straight to the top of an online hotlist on indie games site Game Jolt.

Mathew said: “*Realm of Rulers*

is a medieval fantasy city building game, where players manage the city’s resources and population to create a world that will control itself.”

He added: “Over the break we worked on making it as presentable and playable as possible, and uploaded it to Game Jolt just to see what kind of reaction it got.

“We weren’t expecting much but it has just exploded.

“Seeing the number of plays and views go up so rapidly was amazing.”

In two days the game managed to pull in nearly 7,000 views from all over the world including gamers in Russia.

The students made the game as part of an extra-curricular project in their college studies of games development.

Oliver said: “We all want to go to university to continue to study games design and development, so having this as part of our portfolio is a big bonus.”

To see the game visit gamejolt.com/games/real-of-rulers/222904

Man jailed for a knife attack on his brother

Michael Race
mrace@nqo.com

A MAN who slashed his brother’s face with a makeshift knife made out of a toothbrush and a razor blade has been jailed for five-and-a-half years.

Joshua Derosa admitted attacking Lewis Derosa on his sibling’s doorstep after the pair had an abusive argument on the phone on September 22 last year.

The 22-year-old defendant, of Clarks Row, Oxford, stormed round to his brother’s flat in Banbury and slashed him with his self-fashioned weapon after the victim answered the front door at about 6pm, Oxford Crown Court heard on Friday.

Derosa’s brother needed eight stitches to the left side of his face, which prosecuting barrister Jonathan Stone said would leave a permanent scar.



Joshua Derosa

Sentencing Derosa, who had 19 previous convictions for a total of 41 offences, recorder Andrew Burrows QC said Derosa’s attack was “clearly premeditated”.

He said the slash with the weapon left a “deep cut” on his brother’s face and added an “aggravating factor” in sentencing Derosa was the fact he committed the crime while serving a 16-month licence period for a previous conviction of actual bodily harm in 2015.

Mr Stone told the court

how the brothers did not have a good relationship.

He added: “The complainant says the last time he saw the defendant was about a year before this incident.

“They had an argument on the phone and he says they were quite abusive on both sides. It resulted in the complainant hanging up on the defendant.”

Defence barrister Graham Bennett told the court a comment made to the defendant about his deceased child during the phone argument “wrangled” him, adding Derosa acknowledged his culpability and responsibility for what happened. Derosa admitted one count of wounding with intent and one count of possessing an offensive weapon.

He was sentenced to five years and six months imprisonment for the wounding offence, and 12 months, to run concurrent, for possessing the weapon.

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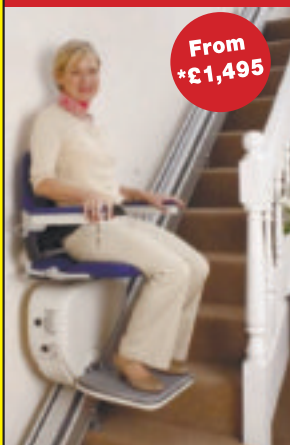
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Day centres axe plan sparks fears

Mounting concerns that bid to close 14 of the 22 locations will disrupt lives

Matt Oliver
moliver@nqo.com

CONTROVERSIAL plans to close 14 daytime support centres for the elderly and disabled could be pushed through within weeks.

The changes would see the number of centres funded by Oxfordshire County Council fall from 22 to eight, saving about £3.14m a year by 2019.

Cash-strapped bosses insist it will put the service on a "solid footing", but there are concerns it could disrupt the lives of people with disabilities and make it harder for some elderly people to reach centres.

Rachael Scott-Hunter, from Chesterton, said council guarantees that services would continue in different buildings "missed the point".

She and husband Ian care for their wheelchair-bound daughter Alexandra, 44, who had a brain haemorrhage after birth and now suffers from a series of severe disabilities, including an inability to talk and partial sight.



Rachael Scott-Hunter with her daughter Alexandra

They currently take her to the Kidlington Day Centre but the changes would mean going to one in Bicester instead, where Alexandra could be separated from friends and staff she knows.

Mrs Scott-Hunter, 70, said: "We want to give our daughter the best possible life, but caring for her is already stressful and as you get older it takes its toll."

"Working with Alexandra is very specialised and it takes her months to become comfortable with the carers because she has severe anxiety problems."

"We are up two to four times every single night to help her and her time at the day centres gives us important respite."

"It is also so important to know we can leave her there and trust

the staff. The county council talks about making these decisions but I don't think they understand the extra stress it will cause."

About 700 adults currently use the council's day centres, including those with disabilities, mental health problems, dementia and the frail elderly.

The council said it will continue to provide services for people with assessed needs and that self-funding users would pay the same rates as those it supports after the changes. But it says it cannot afford to keep funding the current £9.3m service, which includes 22 centres.

Under the new plans, this would fall to £6.16m by 2019 and there would only be eight centres, in Abingdon, Banbury, Bicester, Didcot, Oxford, Wallingford, Witney and Wantage. The new proposed budget is about £225,000 more than the original one, and includes extra grant funding for charities to bid for, with about £650,000 of 'transition funding' also set to be made available.

Judith Heathcoat, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "We are confident that the new services will provide tailored support to meet needs."

The changes will be considered at a council cabinet meeting on Tuesday.



Crowds flock to see rare bird

UNBELIEVABLE as it might seem to some, these cheeky chicks are so rare in Oxfordshire that their appearance attracted a crowd of feather fanciers, brandishing telescopic lenses, tripods and tea.

In fact they are waxwings, *Bombicilla garrulus* – a species last seen in Oxfordshire five years ago.

This photograph was snapped last week in New Marston, Oxford, by birdwatcher Hugh Jaeger, who explained why everyone was getting so twitchy about the avian arrivals.

He said: "Waxwings spend each summer in Scandinavia and Russia

and each winter in Britain. "Their winter range doesn't usually include Oxfordshire – mostly they stick to eastern and central Scotland, northern England and the east coast of England, but once every few years they spread much further west and south."

"Their last major visit to Oxfordshire was in the winter of 2012-13, and this year is another waxwing winter."

Mr Jaeger said the birds were first spotted in Crowmarsh Gifford near Wallingford on January 4, then in Banbury on January 6 and turned up in New Marston on Sunday. A few birdwatchers

arrived in Marston Road to see the visitors on Monday, but by Wednesday the numbers had grown, and several set up their cameras with tripods and huge lenses.

Mr Jaeger said: "After midday, working people used their lunch break to come and see the birds, and more than a dozen of us were all huddled in a group a short distance from the waxwings' little roan tree."

"I hope New Marston residents don't mind all the birdwatchers – some residents certainly seem amused. One passer-by stopped and used her phone to take a photo of the birdwatchers."

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Stricter rules for cabbies take effect

NEW rules for taxi firms which include mandatory safeguarding training for every driver came into force last week in Cherwell.

The new licensing policy agreed by Cherwell District Council makes it compulsory for all drivers to take the 'fit and proper person' test to better safety standards.

Cherwell District Council lead member for public protection Tony Ilott said: "The aim of this new policy is to ensure the safety of residents and visitors using taxis in and around the district."

"Taxis and private hire vehicles regularly transport passengers who may be vulnerable, including children and those under the influence of alcohol, so it is essential our policy meets the highest standards to safeguard both passengers and drivers."

"With these enhanced checks and regulations, the general public can have greater confidence in using taxi drivers that have been thoroughly trained and vetted to ensure they are fit for purpose."

The new rules came into force on Monday, January 9, for both private hire and Hackney Carriages.

It also includes new spoken English tests and stricter use of criminal records as any applicants convicted of serious offences will be refused.

The period of good behaviour required after convictions is also raised from three to 10 years.

Road users call for action over pothole blackspots



Susan Trafford by the pothole outside her home in Kennington; inset, Kimberley Brain's damaged tyre

Fed-up residents flag up the worst-affected areas on National Pothole Day

Sophie Grubb
sgrubb@nqo.com

ROAD users across the county flagged up pothole blackspots and called for action to tackle the worst ones on National Pothole Day on Monday.

To mark the day the RAC called on people to report the road defects using a new app.

The motoring organisation said it had seen a 24 per cent increase in the number of pothole-related call-outs in the last three months of 2016.

And in Oxfordshire people said more work was needed to tackle the problem.

Kennington villager Gary Trafford, 64, complained to Oxfordshire County Council about

a pothole outside his home that was fixed just before Christmas. But he said a "crumbling" patch of tarmac next to the hole was ignored by council workers when they filled it in, eventually deteriorating into another pothole.

He said: "It was literally right next to it, they could have fixed it all in one go but I've had to call them out again."

"There are pushbikes swerving to miss it; it's quite a big hole. It's deep enough to damage a bicycle."

Other readers got in touch about roads that need attention.

John Batey said Marston Road in Oxford was a blackspot, while Derek Bradshaw nominated Green Road and Abingdon Road in Didcot.

Neelum Ali said: "There are a lot of potholes on the footpath along Donnington Bridge Road in Oxford between Swinburne Road and Abingdon Road. I use a mobility scooter and the state of the footpath is really bad."

Kimberley Brain said her wheel had been damaged by a pothole on the A361.

County council spokesman Martin Crabtree said: "Our road conditions on the whole are in line with national averages – there is absolutely nothing unique about Oxfordshire."

"We work all year round and all hours to maintain our roads and fix potholes."

Last week, the Department for Transport revealed the council would receive £19.4m for road maintenance in the next financial year, with £1.3m specifically for potholes.

The news was welcomed by Witney MP Robert Courts.

He said: "The state of our roads is consistently raised by local residents and remains a great source of frustration."

"This funding is welcome news for families and businesses who rely on our roads."

The RAC app Report Pothole is available online.

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'Elected mayor must be a referee'

AN ELECTED mayor of Oxfordshire will need to be prepared to referee rows between councils, the leader of one local authority has said.

Speaking last Thursday, Bob Price said proposals for the role were yet to be fully agreed but that anyone would be able to stand as a candidate in elections.

The leader of Oxford City Council was giving evidence to its scrutiny committee, which recently published a review of options for devolution – the process of clawing back powers from Westminster. Mr Price told the

committee: "It would be good to get someone as mayor who is not a political party hack and who can really project Oxfordshire's potential."

He suggested "someone like Lord Drayson", the businessman, amateur racing driver and former Labour minister who owns Kidlington-based firm Drayson Racing Technologies. Mr Price added: "It should be someone who can be politically neutral and who can act as an arbitrator between local authorities and take a professional perspective."

His comments came ahead of

crunch talks between council leaders, who are hoping to agree a devolution proposal. They are expected to put forward plans for a mayor who would lead a combined authority with powers over transport, housing and skills funding for training and further education colleges.

It is hoped that in return the Government will guarantee hundreds of millions of pounds in funding for major schemes.

The proposal has so far been supported in principle by all five of the district councils and Oxfordshire County Council.

An extraordinary odyssey

LION (PG, 118 mins) Drama/Romance. Dev Patel, Nicole Kidman, David Wenham, Rooney Mara, Sunny Pawar, Abhishek Bharate, Priyanka Bose, Deepti Naval. **Director:** Garth Davis

HOME is where the heart is, but when memories of that place of sanctuary are cruelly stolen at an early age, can you truly be at peace?

One man's extraordinary true-life odyssey – to locate the birth mother and older brother he lost at the age of five – provides the inspiration for Garth Davis' life-affirming drama, which looks set for recognition in multiple categories at next month's Academy Awards.

Screenwriter Luke Davies has skilfully adapted the non-fiction book *A Long Way Home* by Saroo Brierley, elegantly cutting back and forth between traumatic events more than 20 years apart to accompany the lead character on his seemingly hopeless quest for emotional closure.

Saroo (Sunny Pawar) lives in 1987 Khandwa with his mother Kamla (Priyanka Bose) and siblings. The five-year-old idolises his 12-year-old brother Guddu (Abhishek Bharate) and the two boys embark on a night-time excursion to the local railway station.

A horrible twist of fate separates the children and Saroo is trapped aboard a train, which heads 1,600km east to the bustling shanty towns of Calcutta.

Unable to speak the language, the boy eventually meets Saroj Sood (Deepti Naval), who runs the Indian Society for Sponsorship and Adoption and places him with adoptive parents John and Sue Brierley (David Wenham, Nicole Kidman) in Hobart, Tasmania.

Many years later, Saroo (now played by Patel) is enrolled on a course at the Royal Melbourne College of Hotel Management and casually confesses details of his past to other Indian students.

They encourage him to use online satellite mapping software to trace the railway line from Calcutta back west.

Fellow student Lucy (Rooney Mara) pledges her support to Saroo, whose studies suffer as he stares at pixels on his laptop screen, looking in vain for a station with a water tower that might be Khandwa.

Lion is a majestic, heartfelt drama that delivers an almighty emotional wallop.

Director Davis deftly moves between timeframes as he elicits riveting performances from Patel, Pawar and Kidman as a proud mother who will never stand in the way of her beautiful boy tracing his bloodline.

SPLIT (15, 117 mins) Thriller. James McAvoy, Anya Taylor-Joy, Betty Buckley, Haley Lu Richardson, Jessica Sula, Sebastian Arcelus, Brad William Henke, Neal Huff. **Director:** M Night Shyamalan

THREE'S company, 23's an intimidating crowd in writer-director M Night Shyamalan's intriguing thriller about a trio of teenagers who are abducted in broad daylight and held hostage by a thirty-something oddball exhibiting multiple-personality disorder.

The abductor's distinct personas supplant one another without warning, establishing a tense psychological battle for internal supremacy, which runs parallel to the hostages' life-or-death fight for survival.

A flashback framing device to a childhood hunting trip is far more predictable and the twisted morality of closing scenes, which attempt to justify who deserves to die, leaves a slightly bitter taste in the mouth.

Far sweeter is Glasgow-born lead actor James McAvoy's tour-de-force portrayal of an emotionally-damaged man at war with himself.

In one powerhouse scene, he ricochets between several personalities, capturing with



Rooney Mara as Lucy and Dev Patel as Saroo Brierley in *Lion*; inset, James McAvoy as Kevin in *Split*

aplomb the fierce battle raging inside his antagonist's head.

For her birthday celebration at a local restaurant, popular high school student Claire Benoit (Haley Lu Richardson) invites her classmates, including best friend Marcia (Jessica Sula) and creepy outcast, Casey (Anya Taylor-Joy).

On the way home, a socially awkward misfit called Kevin Crumb (McAvoy) kidnaps the three girls.

Admittedly his picture falls short of the suffocating tension of yesteryear's abduction thriller *10 Cloverfield Lane*, but it's an entertaining thrill ride, which gradually builds to the emergence of Kevin's 24th personality.

Cake Bookworm

The Bone Field by Simon Kernick is published in hardback by Century, priced £12.99 (ebook £8.99)

In the grounds of a Buckinghamshire school, the remains of two teenage girls have been discovered, many years after both their unsolved disappearances and, at the time, crimes that were seemingly unconnected. After receiving a phone call from Henry Forbes, who claims to know the origin of the bones, DI Ray Mason gets dragged into a fast-paced criminal chase as he tries to uncover the truth behind the stories of Kitty and Dana. Simon Kernick is a fantastic thriller writer, slowly uncovering key pieces of evidence to the reader, while making sure to constantly maintain our interest, making this book truly unputdownable. *The Bone Field* is an intriguing novel that really gets under your skin and, excitingly,

is the first in a series. Kernick is cleverly always one step ahead of the reader, as we try to guess the next piece of the puzzle before it unfolds. Never a dull moment, this fast-paced book is certain to keep you gripped to the very end.

Sirens by Joseph Knox is published in hardback by Doubleday, priced £12.99 (ebook £7.99)

So short and dramatic has Joseph Knox written the chapters in his debut crime thriller, you'll lose hours at night allowing yourself to read 'just one more'. We meet our narrator, Detective Constable Aidan Waits in a brief, but intriguing prologue, that serves as a framing device for his reminiscences about the previous November. "I couldn't have explained the girls, the women, who had briefly entered my life. Briefly changed it." Waits is an anti-hero of sorts – damaged by a childhood in care, disgraced

and suspended for stealing drugs from evidence lockers, he's given one last shot at redemption by Superintendent Parrs and sent undercover on a suicide mission to feed information to drugs kingpin Zain Carver, so the force can flush out a mole. He eases himself into the role, hanging out at Carver's seedy bars in Manchester, high on speed, but when a high-profile MP asks him to keep an eye on his teenage daughter Isabelle, who he meets at Carver's notorious parties, things start taking a more sinister turn. Posh kids start dying from bad drugs – and signs point to the resurgence of the Burnside, who could have killed Carver's old flame 10 years before. The 'sirens' Waits is drawn to aren't fleshed out nearly enough, compared to the huge cast of men, and serve as little more than expendable gangster's molls, but it's a cleverly plotted and convincing read.

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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Grove RFC Girls' Rugby: Grove RFC, Recreation Lane, Grove. Contact rugby union for girls aged 11-18 in three age groups. 7pm. Annual membership £85 after three free sessions. 07970 292322.

Jorge Carrión in conversation with Peter Bush and Michael Bhaskar: Blackwell's Bookshop, 48-51 Broad Street, Oxford. Jorge Carrión, author of *Bookshops*, with anecdotes on publishing, bookselling and more. 7pm. £5. 01865 333623.

King of all Balloons: St Edmund Hall, Queen's Lane, Oxford. Presented by Oxford Civic Society. James Sadler (1753-1828) is noted in Oxford as the pioneer of hot-air ballooning. But he also spent 25 years as a designer of engines and armaments and as Chemist to the Royal Navy. Local historian Mark Davies will explore Sadler's remarkable life and achievements. 8pm. Free. 07798 625740.

Special Event Film: Abingdon Health and Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, Abingdon. L'Atalante, 89 mins, France, 1934, Cert PG. Introduced by Dr Ann Miller, formerly of the Department of Modern Languages, Leicester University. 7.45pm. £6. 01235 521976.

Photography Talk: Crowmarsh Pavilion, The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford. A Personal Wander Through the Technology used in my Photography by Peter Greenaway. Wallingford Photographic Club. 7.45pm. First visit free.

FRIDAY

Gong Sound Bath: The Clifton Centre, Ashdene Road, Bicester. Bathe in the sounds of gongs (plus Tibetan bowls, crystal singing bowls and more) for a deeply relaxed state. 7.30pm. £16. 07917 453224.

Witney Bytomic Taekwondo Classes: Wood Green School, Woodstock Road, Witney. 7pm. Monthly fees apply. 01844 281888.

SATURDAY

Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers: Brill Windmill, South Hills, Brill. A leisurely five-mile walk starting high on Brill Hill, the route being determined by the weather. 10am. Free. 07527 758788.

Dunmore School Jumble Sale: Dunmore Primary School, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. 10.30am. £1.

Volunteer Information Morning: Helen & Douglas House, 14a Magdalen Road, Oxford. Outlining the work of Helen & Douglas House and providing information about current opportunities. Helen & Douglas House cares for terminally ill children, young adults and their families. 10am. Free. 01865 794749.

National Art and Design Saturday Club: Banbury and Bicester College, Broughton Road, Oxford. For 14-16 year olds. 10am. Free. 0808 168 6626.

SUNDAY

Botanical Illustration: Earth Trust, Little Wittenham. Learn tips and techniques from RHS Gold Award winner Romilly Swann. £See www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson 10am. £30. 01865 407792.

Bytomic Taekwondo Classes: Brookside Primary School, Bucknell Road, Bicester. 5pm. 01844 281 888.

Second Lease Walks: Car Park, Woodford Way, Witney. Seven-mile walk around Sunningwell. 9.30am. Free. 01993 774500.

MONDAY

Beginner korfbal sessions: Rye St Antony School, Franklin Road, Headington. Korfbal is a mixed team sport with similarities to basketball, netball and handball for adult players of

all ages 6.30pm. Free for first four sessions.

Masons Apron Northwest Morris: Recreation Hall, Main Street, Long Hanborough. Masons Apron Ladies Northwest Morris winter practice season. 8.15pm. £5 annual fee plus £2 per week. 01993 200717.

Women's Self Defence and Fitness Class: The Pavilion, Roosevelt Road, Long Hanborough. Ages from 13 upwards welcome. 8pm. £5. 07834 022463.

Yoga Class: The Clifton Centre, Ashdene Road, Bicester. 9.30am. 07917 453224.

TUESDAY

Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers: Skimmingdish Lane, Fringford. A leisurely five-mile walk around Caversfield and Fringford end. 10am. Free. 07939 826412.

Playground: The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford. Playground is an open platform for artists across disciplines to try out, develop and present new work. Book your place atoldfirestation.org.uk 7pm. Free. 01865 263990.

Tea Dance: Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock. 2pm. £2. 01993 811473.

The Big Lunchtime Sing: Museum of Oxford, Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford. Fun singing sessions for everyone. Learn songs from all over the world. No experience required, no need to read music, everything is taught by ear. 12.30pm. £5. 01865 252334.

Yoga Class: The Clifton Centre, Ashdene Road, Bicester. 6.15pm. 07917 453224.

Yoga for those who think they can't do yoga: Methodist Church, West Street, Chipping Norton. 7.30pm. £12 per class. 01993 831032.

WEDNESDAY

Bettany Hughes in conversation with Peter Frankopan: Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street, Oxford. Bettany Hughes discusses her new book *Istanbul: a Tale of Three Cities*. She will be interviewed by Peter Frankopan, bestselling author of *The Silk Roads*. 7pm. £7. 01865 333623.

Crochet for beginners: Hobbycraft, Lamarsh Road, Oxford. 5pm. £5. 01865 364881.

Grove RFC Ladies Rugby: Grove RFC, Recreation Lane, Grove. 7pm. Annual membership £70 after three free sessions. 07970292322.

Ramblers walk: Village green, Warborough. Seven-mile walk via Shillingford, Little Wittenham and Dorchester. 10am. 01865 890829.

Read and Relax: St Ethelwold's House, East St Helen Street, Abingdon. Books to borrow, books to swap, books to recommend. Free, donations for refreshments. 1pm. 07964 433720.

Witney Bytomic Taekwondo Classes: Wood Green School, Woodstock Road, Witney. 7pm. Monthly fees apply. 01844 281888.

Music

THURSDAY

The Oxford Golf Club, Hill Top Road, Oxford: Big Band Evening featuring The Velvet Tones, Sisters of Swing and guest band The Soundforce Big Band. Free. 7.45pm. 01865 242158.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Jim Rattigan's Pavilion. The Spin Jazz Club. Twelve-piece jazz ensemble. 8.30pm. £12, £10 (conc), £8 (student).

FRIDAY

Players Theatre, Nelson Street, Thame: Simon & Garfunkel: Through The Years. Tribute concert by Bookends.

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

£12. 7.30pm. 01844 217228.

Quarry Village Hall, Quarry Road, Headington: Oxford Fiddle Group Concert. £8 in advance, £10 on the door. 7.30pm. 07974 353 069.

St Mary Magdalen Church, Magdalen Street, Oxford: Byrd is the Word Choral Event. The choir of St Mary Magdalen and guests, directed by Will Dawes. Free. 5pm. 01865 246143.

The White House, Abingdon Road, Oxford: Lynne Heraud and Pat Turner. Oxford Folk Club. £6. 8.30pm. 01865 768128.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Echo4Four, Mike Lee Band, Bad Blood, Recovery, Audiochemistry. Hard rock and heavy metal. 7.45pm. £7.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Margo Price Band. Nashville-based country singer. 7pm. £15.

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: The Sounds of Simon. Simon and Garfunkel tribute act. 8pm. £15.50.

SATURDAY

Cricketers, Temple Road, Cowley: Bitterroot. Four-piece country and western band. Free. 9pm. 01865 718459.

Middle Barton Social Club, Worton Road, Middle Barton: Abilene Country Music Club. With Muscles & Curves. £6. 8pm. 01295 810016.

Royal British Legion Club, Spring Road, Abingdon: Late Birds jazz vocals. Jazz by vocalist Kait Lee with Becky White electric bass and George Haslam saxes and clarinet. Free. 8.30pm. 01235 526389.

SJE Arts, 109A Iffley Road, Oxford: Guitarist Sean Shibe. A programme spanning from the 16th to the 20th century. See www.musicatoxford.com £15-35. 7.30pm.

Oxford New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: Jan 21, The Roy Orbison Story featuring Barry Steele. 6.30pm. £26. 0844 871 3020.

The George Inn, 5 Sandford Road, Littlemore: Mudslide Morris & the Revelators. Blues and boogie. Free. 9pm. 01865 779341.

University Church of St Marys, High Street, Oxford: Mozart and Beethoven. Oxford Sinfonia. £15 (£12). 7.30pm. 01865 305305.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Gutlocker, K-Lacura, Bloodshot, Violence Is Golden. Charity fundraiser for The Abolição Trust with local metal acts. 8pm. £5.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: K.O.G. & The Zongo Brigade. Afro-fusion nine-piece band, plus resident DJs playing Latin, African, Balkan, global beats and nu jazz. 11pm.

SUNDAY

St Denys' Church, Church Green, Stanford in the Vale: Dolly Mixtures. Concert featuring The Loxley Quintet, Rachel McCubbin – flute, Nicky Brass – oboe, Helen Finch – clarinet, Raymond Joyce – horn and Ian McCubbin – bassoon. £10. 3pm. 01367 718420.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Black Bullets, Cherokii, Ghoul, Crimson Tusk, Severance. Rock and metal battle of the bands. 7pm. £5.

Oxford Wine Café, South Parade, Summertown: Izabela Borzymowska (vocals, guitar, bass & percussion). Jazz. 6.30-9pm. Free.

The Nag's Head, The Bridge,

Abingdon: Funk Bake. Jazz. 5-7pm. Free.

MONDAY

The White Hart, 126 Godstow Road, Wolvercote: Irish Music Session. 8pm. Free.

TUESDAY

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Black Peaks, Tigerclub, Employed To Serve, Punk. 7pm. £10.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: RedFaces. Sheffield indie rockers on UK tour. 7pm. Free.

Wednesday 25/01/2017

The Queen's College, Chapel, High Street, Oxford: Organ Recital Series. Paul Hale. Free with a retiring collection. 1.10pm. 01865 279125.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: The Blue Aeroplanes. Bristolian alt-rock veterans. 7pm. £12.50 adv, £15 otd.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Chatham County Line. Bluegrass/country. 7.30pm. £17 (adv), £20 (otd).

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: The Hunna, High Tyde. Hertfordshire indie rockers promoting debut album '100'. 6pm. £13.

The Bear Inn, 6 Alfred Street, Oxford: JazzRiots. Maria Ilett (vocals/guitar), Denny Ilett Snr (trumpet) and Ritchie Wildsmith (drums). 9-11.15pm. Free.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Von Braun, Orange Tan, Jack Cooper & The Offshore, Ash Lewis. Alt-rock. 7.45pm. £6.

Theatre

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Jan 21, Steve Harris, Ivo Graham, and Paul Tonkinson. 7pm. £15.95, £10 (student).

The Library Pub, 182 Cowley Road, Oxford: Jan 19, What a Joke (Inter) National Comedy Festival. A night of comedy to help the American Civil Liberties Union. 7-9pm. £5.

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Jan 19, *The Mitzvah Project*. A combination of theatre, history lesson and conversation in which actor and child of Holocaust survivor, Roger Grunwald, explores one of the most shocking aspects of the Jewish experience during the Second World War. 7.30pm. £5. 01865 263990.

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Jan 19, *The Remains of Tom Lehrer*. 7.30pm. £11.50-£18.Jan 21, *La Boheme*. 8pm. £11.50-£22. Jan 21, *Black Is The Colour Of My Voice*. Apphia Campbell with her show inspired by the life and music of Nina Simone. 7.30pm. £11.50-£18. 01865 305305.

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: Jan 19, *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*. 7.30pm. £29.75 plus £2.85 transaction fee. Jan 24-26, *Lord of the Dance – Dangerous Games*. 8pm. £42.65-£45.15 plus £4 transaction fee. 0844 871 7615.

The North Wall Arts Centre, South Parade, Summertown: Jan 21, *Luke Courtier: Lunch*. Luke Courtier presents a high-octane series of musical comedy vignettes asking that vital question: what is it that really happens at Lunch? 8pm. £10 (concession £8). 01865 319450.

Aston Village Hall, Cote Road, Aston: Jan 19-21, *Wife After Death* by Eric Chappell. ACTS production. 7.30pm.

£7 to £8. 01993 850543.

The Beacon, Portway, Wantage: Jan 22, *Burglar Bill*. The Pied Piper Theatre company present a retelling of Janet & Allan Ahlberg's classic story.11am and 2pm. £8 standard, £28 family ticket (for four). 01235 763456.

Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Jan 21, *Burglar Bill*. The Pied Piper Theatre company present a retelling of Janet & Allan Ahlberg's classic story. 2.30pm. £8.50. 01608 642350.

Corn Exchange, Market Place, Wallingford: Until Jan 28, *The Pied Piper*. Wallingford's annual pantomime. 7pm, matinees on Saturdays. £12/£10/£6. 01491 825000.

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Jan 21, *Zoe Lyons: Little Misfit*. Stand-up comedy. 8pm. £15. 01295 279002.

Unicorn Theatre, Thames Street, Abingdon: Jan 25-28, *Much Ado About Nothing*. 7.30pm. £10 (£9 o/65, u/16). 01865 778105.

Wolvercote Village Hall, Wolvercote Green, Wolvercote: Jan 24-28, *The Wizard of Oz*. North Oxford Youth Theatre. 7.30pm. £6 Tues; £7 Wed and Thurs; £8 Fri. (Sat sold out). 01865 848816.

Exhibitions

Christ Church Picture Gallery, Entrance via Oriel Square, Oxford: Until Jan 30, Drawing in Red. 10.30am. £4/£2 concessions. Until Feb 20, Forgotten Faces: Portraits from our Storeroom. 10.30am. 01865 276172.

The Jam Factory, Hollybush Row, Oxford: Until Jan 27, Legs to Walk us, Drop us. 9am. Free. Jan 24-Mar 5, Marcin Kulabko: Crowds. 9am. Free. 01865 244613.

John Radcliffe Hospital, Main Corridor, Level 2, Headley Way, Oxford: Until Jan 21, Twelfth Night. Free. Calligraphy exhibition by Oxford Scribes 01865 714714.

Link Gallery @ John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Oxford: Until Feb 28, Rivers of Life: Photographs by Rob Farrands. Free. 07867 900746.

Museum of Oxford, Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford: Until Jan 28, Literature, Lives and Locations by Gwynne Robins. 10am. Free. 01865 252334.

Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford: Until Jan 29, Artweeks Arctic. 10am-5pm. Free.

Museum of the History of Science, Broad Street, Oxford: Until May 21, Back from the Dead: Demystifying Antibiotics. 12-5pm. Free.

Sarah Wiseman Gallery, 40-41 South Parade, Summertown: Until Jan 28, Peter Kettle: On Meadow and River. 10am. Free. 01865 515123.

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Until Mar 4, Haptic/ Tacit. 11am. Free. 01865 263990.

The Turill Sculpture Garden, South Parade, Summertown: Until Feb 25, Winter Exhibition. 9.30am. Free. 01865 515584.

Weston Library, Broad Street, Oxford: Until Feb 17, Bodleian Treasures: 24 Pairs. 10am-5pm. Free.

Wolfson College, Linton Road, Oxford: Until Jan 27, Wolfson at Play: Children's Art Exhibition. 7am. Free.

Bantam Lodge, Church End, South Leigh: Until Jan 29, Andrew Freidin and Rose-Marie Caldecott. 12pm. Free.

Bohun Gallery, 15 Reading Road, Henley on Thames: Until Jan 28, Paper Arabesque. 10am. Until Jan 28, Ceramics by Prue Piper. 10am. 01491 576228.

Sewell Centre Gallery, Radley College, Abingdon: Jan 20-Feb 9, British Abstract. 10am. Free. 01235 543039.

CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport

Ford tells side to ignore table

Play-off chasing Puritans urged to just keep playing

BANBURY United manager Mike Ford has urged his side to ignore the table and keep playing as they did in Saturday's 1-0 win at Kings Langley, writes MATTHEW BRUCE.

Conor McDonagh's second-half effort sealed a victory which achieved Ford's first goal for the campaign.

"We've hit my target of 50 points, so now I just want to add to that," he said.

"The players showed great resolve to win the game on Saturday. I just want them to do the same again and not worry about anything else."

Ford handed a debut to James Smith, who came off the bench shortly after joining on loan from

FOOTBALL

West Bromwich Albion.

The Puritans boss, whose side visited Weymouth on Tuesday night and host struggling St Neots Town on Saturday, said: "He's another great attacking addition and gives us something different."

"I actually tried to get him in the summer, but we couldn't make it happen before the Premier League's transfer window closed."

"But I kept a close eye on his progress and was delighted to be able to bring him in."

Banbury Utd: Harding, Westbrook, Gunn, Nash, Carnell, Self, White, Humphreys (Smith 59), McDonagh (Ofosu 77), McEachran (E Odiambo 89), Martin. Subs not used: Bell, Browne. **Attendance:** 152.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Leamington | 29 | 18 | 7 | 4 | 50 | 17 | 61 |
| Hitchin Tn | 29 | 17 | 7 | 5 | 49 | 26 | 58 |
| Chippenham | 29 | 16 | 9 | 4 | 61 | 38 | 57 |
| Merthyr Tn | 28 | 14 | 10 | 4 | 54 | 23 | 52 |
| Slough Tn | 26 | 16 | 4 | 6 | 46 | 28 | 52 |
| Frome Tn | 30 | 14 | 9 | 7 | 55 | 41 | 51 |
| Banbury Utd | 28 | 15 | 5 | 8 | 44 | 23 | 50 |
| Chesham Utd | 25 | 14 | 6 | 5 | 47 | 23 | 48 |
| Kettering Tn | 28 | 12 | 7 | 9 | 51 | 38 | 43 |
| Redditch Utd | 30 | 12 | 7 | 11 | 42 | 50 | 43 |
| Biggleswade Tn | 27 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 48 | 38 | 39 |
| Dunstable Tn | 29 | 12 | 3 | 14 | 32 | 36 | 39 |
| St. Ives Tn | 29 | 10 | 7 | 12 | 32 | 46 | 37 |
| King's Lynn Tn | 26 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 36 | 37 | 35 |
| Basingstoke Tn | 29 | 10 | 5 | 14 | 34 | 43 | 35 |
| Weymouth | 26 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 38 | 31 | 34 |
| Stratford Tn | 29 | 7 | 13 | 9 | 42 | 44 | 34 |
| Kings Langley | 30 | 8 | 8 | 14 | 42 | 51 | 32 |
| Dorchester Tn | 30 | 8 | 8 | 14 | 38 | 50 | 32 |
| St. Neots Tn | 28 | 7 | 4 | 17 | 37 | 69 | 25 |
| Cirencester Tn | 31 | 6 | 6 | 19 | 35 | 71 | 24 |
| Hayes & Yeading | 27 | 5 | 7 | 15 | 26 | 51 | 22 |
| Cambridge City | 29 | 4 | 8 | 17 | 26 | 50 | 20 |
| Cinderford Tn | 28 | 3 | 2 | 23 | 29 | 70 | 11 |



Conor McDonagh scored Banbury United's winner at Kings Langley

Banbury dig deep to take down leaders

RUGBY UNION

IN-FORM Banbury held on for a 20-17 win over previous leaders Maidenhead at Bodicote Park in South West 1 East.

Cash Chilvers crashed over, with Ed Phillips converting, to make it 7-0 to the home side.

Phillips extended their lead with a penalty, before Freddie Cracknell crossed in the corner.

Phillips added the extras.

Chris Phillips was sin-binned, but Banbury maintained their lead at the break.

An Ed Phillips penalty made it 20-0, but despite also having a player yellow-carded, Maidenhead were next to score through a converted try.

The visitors were straight on the front foot and two unconverted tries hauled them to within three points.

But Banbury, who stayed fourth, dug deep and retained the ball well to secure a memorable win.

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

Relationships come under the spotlight and you no longer worry what other people may think about your decisions. You realise that you are the one who is going to have to live your life and with the choices you make. A slow weekend could see you cancelling something out of spite. Don't. What you had planned is the key to moving forward. Ring now for a detailed look at your future.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

Try to take in all that is going on around you this week Taurus, as there is everything to be gained from being grateful to those who have helped and supported you. News from far away gives you reason to look forward to the summer when a journey you had not thought possible becomes a major part of your plans. Ring now to hear whose jealousy is becoming a problem.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

This week it's all about working as a team, which is something you were not able to do at the beginning of the month. The goalposts have moved now though Gemini and you're about to find out how much you can gain by watching and learning from others. News of a wedding or engagement brings confusion and questions. Ring now so we can talk about all of this.

0906 585 4362

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

You start to see what and who is important to you. Because of this, you take steps to remove those from your life who bring you down. The good news is that you do it quickly, with style and without any unnecessary arguments or confrontations. A promise you were made in business is not honoured. What takes its place is far better. Ring now so I can show you with whom your future lies.

0906 585 4363

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

You're finding it hard to know which direction you should be taking, but that's only because you've been listening to everyone but yourself. Stop and take some time for reflection in the coming days. Not only will it show you the best path to take, it will also arm you with the confidence you need to enjoy life to the full. Ring now to hear why this is a great month to start new relationships.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

You think you don't have the approval of your close ones, but you are wrong. Slow your pace and take in the view. There is so much for you to enjoy if only you would take off the blinkers you have been wearing. A fall out you had in the family is ready to be healed, but you are the one who must take the initiative my friend. Ring now so we can talk about a recent confession.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

There is a more peaceful feel to your chart than we have seen in quite a few weeks. This has a lot to do with the company you are now keeping. Try not to say what you think new faces want to hear, but work instead on being you and stating how you feel. It will help you to find more common ground with those you've started mixing with. Ring now for an early Valentine's prediction.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

Are you pushing for changes for the sake of it, or do you really want to shake your life up Scorpio? I don't think you really know yet. You won't until you stop worrying about who's watching, relax and take in your true feelings. The written word can make you money, but it can also lose it if you don't read things thoroughly. Ring now so we can be honest about what you want in love.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

Jupiter, the planet of self-expansion has placed a better feel on your personal life. Rather than worrying about what others want from you, you start to show them all you can offer. By the end of this week, everyone will know where they stand and you will feel more like you again. About time too. Ring now to hear how Mars gives you the ability to get a secret out of anyone.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

Try not to pay too much attention to rumours. Instead, work on what you know to be fact. It's what can save you money and earn you strong supporters. Someone you used to see is looking to come back into your life and it's important that you sleep on any decisions you make regarding this. Ring now to hear why it's worth doing overtime throughout January 2017.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

Try to stop and count your blessings, rather than looking at all that's gone wrong so far this year. If you do, then you'll soon see you have much to be grateful for. You start to take better care of yourself by the end of this week and this says a lot about how you want to make the most of yourself for the sake of a current influence. This is where life gets interesting. Ring now for details.

0906 585 4370

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

There is a quieter feel to your chart which allows you more time for reflection than you've had so far this year. You ruling planet Jupiter makes it possible for you to make friends in high places and you can achieve things this week which were not possible in the last three months. Instant attractions make for a week you will not forget in a hurry. Ring now to hear who is your match made in heaven.

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Five ways to shine in video calls

READY for your close up? You'd better be because the world of call and contact centres is changing.

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So how do you feel about taking on such a visible role?

Would you like to see your customers and for them to see you, or are you much happier being an invisible presence?

Don't let camera shyness

cripple your career.

If you have your sights set on one of the many call and contact centre vacancies that now involve video calling, here's how you handle those close-up shots.

Smile – nobody likes talking to someone who looks grumpy. By making your best smiley face your default setting you'll instantly convey the impression of being warm and helpful.

Speak slowly – you don't need to speak like HM the Queen or change your accent, but you do need to speak slowly.

Customers will be calling in from everywhere and they'll quickly get frustrated if you talk so fast they can't make out your words.

Sit up straight – slouching in your chair gives the impression you don't really care and swivelling on it could actually make callers feel sea-sick. Sit upright but relaxed at the front of your seat.

Chin down – nobody wants to look up your nose. Callers will also get distracted by untidy hair and clothing, so check in the mirror before you start your first call. If

you wear glasses, make sure they have an anti-glare tint or swap to contact lenses. And don't fiddle with your jewellery, it makes you look anxious or guilty and that's never a good look.

Elbows in – if you have a tendency to throw your hands about while explaining something, you can prevent the habit from becoming distracting by keeping your elbows tucked close to your side. That way your flying hands won't disappear out the edge of the frame.

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A new to the market spacious two bedroom cottage situated in the heart of the village of North Newington. There is a separate kitchen; good size lounge with all original features. Upstairs there are two bedrooms and a family size bathroom. Parking is on road. The property also benefits from a picturesque garden. Situated with easy access for Banbury and Bloxham. Walking distance to the local primary school.

Asking Price Of £250,000



56 Spencer Court

A SECOND FLOOR ONE BEDROOM RETIREMENT APARTMENT. Entrance hall. Lounge/diner. Bathroom. Kitchen. Airing cupboard. Communal washing facilities and all water usage. Communal gardens. Allocated parking.

£114,000



Kings Way

A spacious 4 bedroom semi detached home situated in the south of Banbury. The property comprises entrance hall, lounge, dining room, recently fitted kitchen diner and cloak room. Upstairs there are four generous bedrooms with ensuite bathroom to the master and separate family bathroom. Outside benefits from ample off road parking, garage, front and rear gardens. IN THE REAR GARDEN THERE IS A BRICK BUILT UNIT IDEAL FOR AN ANNEX CONVERSION OR HOME OFFICE

Asking Price Of £320,000



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New Instruction



Glyndebourne Gardens

One double bedroom, Kitchen, Living room, Bathroom with bath and shower, Gas central heating, Fridge freezer available, Convenient for local bus routes, Walking distance to town centre

££695

New Instruction



The Camellias

We are pleased to present a new to the market two bedroom spacious semi detached house conveniently situated within Hardwick.

£795


New Instruction



Flat 6, 41 Middleton Road

We are pleased to present a new to the market second floor spacious two bedroom apartment situated conveniently within walking distance to the town centre and train station. The property comprises open plan kitchen; living room; two bedrooms with built in wardrobes; bathroom with bath and shower.

££750.00



15 Ashmead Road

A super three bedroom house in Hanwell Fields with driveway parking; a garage and a rear enclosed garden. The kitchen is fully fitted with dishwasher; washing machine and fridge freezer. Available unfurnished.

£1,050

New Instruction



32 Fergusson Road

We are pleased to present a new to the market three bedroom spacious property situated within walking distance to the town centre and train station. The property comprises: entrance hall; living room; kitchen; upstairs there are three double bedrooms; bathroom with bath and shower.


£895.00 pcm



Room 8, 30 Marlborough Road

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market fully furnished room in a shared house. The property benefits from a shared kitchen with cooker; washing machine and fridge freezer. There is also a bathroom with bath and shower. Enclosed rear patio and on road parking available. The property is within walking distance to the town center and train station.

££390.00 pcm



Elton Road

We are pleased to present this three bedroom property, with garden and garage in the popular area of Cherwell Heights, Banbury.

£1,025



114 Broughton Road

We are pleased to present a new to the market, two bedroom refurbished end of terrace property with enclosed rear garden. Located with close proximity to the town center and walking distance to the train station.

£875




9 Butchers Row

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market three bedroom apartment in the town centre with allocated parking. The property comprises good size kitchen; living room; three bedrooms; bathroom with bath and shower. Available unfurnished. Conveniently situated within walking distance to the town centre and train station. EPC Rating: C

£825

New Instruction



Enhance Court

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market one bedroom stunning apartment situated conveniently in the town centre near to Banbury Cross. The property comprises: an open plan kitchen and living area; good size double bedroom; bathroom with bath and shower. EPC Rating: D

£725



62 Causeway

Martin & Co Banbury are pleased to offer this two bedroom mid terraced property, with close proximity to train station and town centre. The property comprises: kitchen, lounge, bathroom, two bedrooms. There is on road parking, and a small garden to the rear of the property. Suitable for single or professional couple.

£750

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